## **EQUAL OPPORTUNITY OFFICE**

Harry Hamrick, Director

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The Equal Opportunity Office was created in September, 1972, under the authority of the first Secretary of the Department of Human Resources, then called the Department of Employment and Social Services. The Office was established to carry out provisions of Article 49B of the Annotated Code of Maryland, the Governor's Code of Fair Practices, the Federal Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967, and future legislation relating to equal opportunity and affirmative action.

The Equal Opportunity Office is mandated to assure equal employment opportunities within the Department and equal delivery of services to clients, claimants, and applicants in Departmental programs. The Office makes these opportunities and services available without regard to race, color, religion, age, national origin, political opinion or affiliation, marital status, or mental or physical handicap. To accomplish these ends, the Office must 1) assure the implementation of and compliance with equal opportunity/non-discrimination laws, rules, and regulations; 2) reduce and eliminate the effects of discrimination in the delivery of Departmental services; and 3) remove barriers to equal employment.

The Equal Opportunity Office is authorized to initiate, coordinate, and investigate complaints of discrimination related to employment in and services provided by and through the Department. The Office also evaluates the Department's equal opportunity programs.

## DISPLACED HOMEMAKERS PROGRAM

Carol Chase Smith, Project Officer

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The Maryland Displaced Homemakers Program was created in 1976 as a pilot project to provide a variety of supportive counseling, training and employment assistance services to homemakers who find themselves "displaced" and without, or with substantially reduced, income in their middle years. Such homemakers have become "displaced" as the result of separation, di-

vorce, the death or disability of a family member previously depended upon for support, or other circumstances.

The project was established as a permanent State Project in 1979 and was extended from one metropolitan service center to other regions of the State. It is funded through the Department of Human Resources (Chapter 637, Acts of 1976; Chapter 339, Acts of 1979).

A displaced homemaker is defined as an individual who is over thirty-five who has been primarily a homemaker; is not gainfully employed; has had or would have difficulty in finding employment; and has depended on income of a family member which is no longer available or on government assistance for which the homemaker is no longer eligible.

Services are provided by a network of nine autonomous, locally administered programs. Program services to encourage self-sufficiency include personal career counseling, job/career workshops, peer support groups, job-training opportunities, employment assistance, informational workshops, and resource referral.

## GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION ON HISPANIC AFFAIRS

Chairperson: Aurelio F. Goichochea, 1983

Vice-Chairperson: Emilia B. Montes, 1985

Dorita de Lemos Down, 1983; Alcides Pinto, 1983; Judith C. Toth, 1983; Israel Valdes, Sr., 1983; Esther Cueto, 1984; Juan Diaz, 1984; Rev. Dalton D. Downs, 1984; Dr. Donald W. O'Connell, 1984; Michael Trias-Fraticelli, 1984; Fred S. Anderson, 1985; Ernest J. Lazlo, 1985; Raul Nieves, 1985; Emilio Perche-Rivas, 1985.

Ex officio members: Charles R. Buck, Jr., Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene; Ruth Massinga, Secretary of Human Resources; David W. Hornbeck, State Superintendent of Schools; James O. Roberson, Secretary of Economic and Community Development; F. David Schad, Executive Aide to the Governor; Antonio Suarez-Simon.

Carlos E. Anzoategui, Executive Director

Globe Building, Suite 404 817 Silver Spring Avenue

Silver Spring 20910 Telephone: 565-3211

The Commission was originally appointed by the Governor on May 14, 1971, as the Commission on the Concerns of Spanish-Speaking People. The Commission was renamed the Governor's Commission on Hispanic Affairs in December